



# HISTORICAL Essaies & Observations

PROVING GODS ESPECIAL  
PROVIDENCE OVER THE

## English Monarchy,

AND MORE PARTICULARLY

Over that Family which enjoys  
the same.

By H. PULESTON M. A.

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This observed by *Edmond Howes* a diligent Compiler of our Countreys Annals, That in this Island there hath happened five remarkable alterations, and each of them alwayes about the period or revolution of five hundred years, whereof in his Historical Preface, he gives this insuing ac-

count.

1. The first alteration, sayes he, was presently upon the death of *Gorboduc*, seventeenth in descent from *Brute*, Founder, according to him, of the British Monarchy. This *Gorboduc* had caused his youngest Son *Porrex* to be joyntly crowned with his eldest Son *Ferrex*: These two fall at difference among themselves; the younger kills the elder, him the Mother, her the Multitude, hence Civil Wars; at length *Malmutius Danwalla* Duke of *Cornwall*, having subdued all Competitors, translates the Kingdom to another line, which continues without any memorable interruption, untill

2. The second grand alteration, in the Reign of *Cassibeline*, forty fourth Successor of *Malmutius*, begun by the invasion of *Julius Caesar*, General of the Romans in *Gaul*, but not perfected before *Claudius* the Emperors time, from which date the *Era* or computation of the Romans absolute Dominion here is to commence, whose departure, recalled by their Domestick dissensions, and Forein inundations, carrying with them also the ablest

of the Britains , was the occasion of

3. The third famous alteration; for the Britains bereaved of their own proper strength, and destitute of the accustomed aid of their Champions the Romans, were necessitated to implore the assistance of the Saxons, a people of *Germany*, against the Picts and Scots, who grievously infested the Northern borders.

To these Saxons *Vortigern*, the late elected King, and Author of these Strangers imployment, in contemplation of their service, most improvidently allots, first the Isle of *Thannet*, then all *Kent*, afterwards more to inhabit; besides his marriage with *Rowena* the Daughter of *Hengist*, one of their principal leaders, gave them so firm a footing, that they not only could not be removed, but even forced their Landlords the Britains into the least, most desert, and most mountainous parts, whilst these new intruding guests enjoy the greatest, the best, and richest share, which they portioned into an Heptarchy, or seven petty Principalities, who contending among themselves for superiority, and wearying out one another with mutual discord, administered opportunity unto

4. The fourth, and indeed a twofold alteration, ( but in regard of its immediate connexion is reckoned but as one ) first by the Danes, a people likewise of *Germany*, who after many conflicts obtained the Sovereignty, but did not long retain the same. But the second ( which took its original almost, where the other determined ) and chiefest mutation, both for its continuance and universality, was that by the Normans, a Nation primarily issued out of *Normandy*, but then possessing the South of *France*, who introduced a general innovation in all things but Religion, which also suffered its vicissitude or turn in

5. The fifth and last alteration under *Henry* the eighth, who gave the first blow unto it, by his withdrawing his  
obedi-

obedience from the Romish Sea, in whose communion *England* had persevered since its first conversion, and by suppressing Monasteries who were the main Pillars and Supporters thereof. But his Son *Edward* the sixth, proceeds further to the abolition of the Rites and Doctrine of that Church, which were yet again restored by his Sister *Mary*, and again excluded by her Sister *Elizabeth*, who was therein imitated by her Successour, *James*, conjoynr of the two separated Kingdoms, *England*, and *Scotland*, which our Author makes a parcel of this last alteration, and where he concludes his general History of the several revolutions of this Island, from the first foundation of a Monarchy here, untill the time wherein he wrote.

But since there hath happened another alteration no lesse, if not in some respect more considerable than any of the former, when not only the Person but the Office, not only a King, and that in an unparallelld manner, but even Kingship it self was destroyed, ( a design that was never so much as attempted by our Ancestors ) and instead thereof, an unheard-of kind of Common-wealth erected, which was soon suppressed by an insolent Usurper, who thought under a different title to have established the whole power to him and his ; But by Gods providence, and the perfidiousnesse of his own Relations, his purpose was defeated, his Son dethroned, a shadow of a Common-wealth retrived, once more dismissed, again revived, and finally dissolved, the old Government renewed, and lawfull Heir recalled; and all this came to passe within the space of twelve years, yea most of it within the circuit of one year, whereof we can only say with the *Psalmist*, *This is the Lords doings, it is marvelous in our eyes.*

And truly, if we consider things impartially, there is great cause of admiration, that God should not only pre-

serve among us for so many ages a Monarchy, ( the best of Regiments, in general, and in particular most agreeable to the situation of this Country, and constitution of the people,) but even continue it, maugre all the Plots and policies of men to the contrary, in that very blood and Family, which as far as creditable Genealogy will extend, hath been first known to have been invested there-withall.

For we may safely affirm, that our present King *Charles* the second, ( in whose posterity we trust it will remain as long as the Sun and Moon endures ) deduces his pedigree in an indisputable line, from all that ever did or could pretend a title or interest to the Crown, which we think can hardly be verified of any Prince besides, this day in the Christian world.

For proof whereof we appeal to such of our Chronicles only as are undoubted and beyond exception. Passing by therefore the Catalogue of British Kings from *Brute* to *Cassibeline*, not as altogether untrue, but as very uncertain; passing by those likewise we find mentioned during the Romans abode here, whose custom it was to permit native Kings indeed in their Conquer'd Provinces, but only as instruments of Tyranny, and wholly depending on the authority of the Empire and its Prefects: We shall take our rise from the Saxons rule, and especially at that time, when from a multiplyed Estate it grew towards an Union; And yet we cannot omit one passage we find Recorded of *Cadwallader* last King of the Britains on this side *Severn*; who at his death prophesied that his Race should recover the Dominion of this Isle again, which was fulfilled in the dayes of King *Henry* the seventh, and more compleatly of King *James*, as will appear when the series and progresse of the Story doth bring us thereunto.

The Saxons, as hath been already hinted, made a se-



venfold partition of the Land they had wrested from the Britains, but the Kingdom of the West-Saxons ( whose first stone was laid by *Cerdic* ) did so increase in superstructure, that in the end it overtopped all the rest.

*Ina*, the fifth descendent of *Cerdic*, was the first advancer of it to this prehemency; but he dyed without issue, and the due order of the succession was somewhat disturbed, by the intrusion of four or five one after another, of the Blood-Royal indeed, but not in such a proximity, as was *Egbert* Nephew but once removed from *Ina*, of whose right and promising forwardnesse, *Britic*, the last of the Usurpers, had so quick a sense, that he contrived the destruction of young *Egbert*. Which to avoid, he was enforced to retire unto the Court of *Offa* King of *Mercia* or *Middle England*, but finding small security there in regard his Enemy had married *Offa*'s daughter, he escapes thence into *France*, whence after the Tyrants death, he returns to the enjoyment of that Kingdome, which had been so long, and so unjustly detained from him.

This Prince ( which we the rather note because of the affinity he hath with the Condition of our Sovereign that now is ) had by an exiles experience attained such a measure of prudence, and all other perfections, that he much improved the West-Saxon Empire, which was now well near arrived to its Meridian and heighth, when it suffered a most terrible Eclipse by the interposition of the Danes, who made their first irruption in his predecessors dayes; and though they were valiantly resisted, and frequently repulsed by him and his Successors; yet did they never after cease from afflicting one part or other, till they had reduced the whole to their subjection, in which posture they held it but a little while, as hath before been intimated, and shall be more amply shewed in its due and proper place.



*Egbert* being dead, *Aethewolph* his Son of a Bishop became a Prince, and though his Education and Profession had rendred him a greater Votary than Warriour, yet did he give the Danes a most memorable overthrow. He had four Sons, who were all Kings in their turns, but the glory of the rest was *Alfred*, the youngest, no lesse famous for Arts than Armes; in the first his Son *Edward* surnamed the Elder, is reported to have been inferiour, but in the last did equal, if not exceed his renowned Father.

This *Edward* often worsted, but could not totally extirpate the Danes, who recruited with fresh supplies from their own Comntry, made daily more and more encroachments upon the already-tired English Nation, whose case at that time especially required some strong prop or stay to sustain and keep up its declining and tottering estate.

And upon this account it was that *Athelstane Edwards* bastard Son, being at full maturity and ripenesse, was preferred before his legitimate one *Edmond* then in minority (the reason also that some succeeding Princes were for some time laid aside) but *Edmond* being now come to Age, after his Brother *Athelstanes* death (the noblenesse of whose life recompenced the blemish of his birth) was admitted to his Fathers Throne, which he did wisely and couragiously manage, but was too soon deprived of it, and his life together, by a villanous Assassinate, in his own house at a festival, whilst he went about to rescue his Sewer from the violence of that barbarous hand.

The more than ordinary hopes conceived of this brave Prince being thus untimely nipped in the bud, his no-lesse-deserving Brother *Eldred* was elected King, notwithstanding *Edmond* had left two Sons behind, whose tender years in those troublesome times were thought incapable of so weighty an employment.

But

But upon the death of *Eldred*, the Scepter (which is a thing to be taken notice of in precedent and subsequent ruptures of this nature) reverted to the right Heirs, viz. the Sons of *Edmond*: And first to *Edwin* the eldest, whose dissolute and degenerate couries made sudden room for *Edgar* the youngest, who matched any of his Predecessors in worth, and excelled them all in power, for he quieted, and kept under, Danes, Welsh, Scots, inso-much as he is accounted, at least from the Saxons entrance, the first absolute Monarch of this entire Island.

In a word, he was happy in his life, and Reign, but most unhappy in his Issue, for having two Sons, *Edward* and *Ethelred*, by several venters; the Step-mother *Elfred* made *Edward* a Saint to make her own Son *Ethelred* a King; and though now by this removal of his Brother, whereunto possibly he might not be privy, none had any nearer title to the Crown than himself, yet did that innocent blood lye heavy upon him and his seed, nor could it, according to *St. Dunstan* predictions, be expiated, but by a long avengement.

In promoting of which divine justice, the Danes were the principal instruments, who had layn still under *Edgar*, but taking advantage of *Ethelred*'s unsettled condition, who by reason of this fore-stalling the Crown was termed the unready, forced him first to purchase an ill-kept peace, and then to relinquish his ill-gotten Kingdom, of which death only prevented *Swayn*, his expeller, to take actual possession, and accumulate this to the Danish Crown.

But *Cnut* the Son of *Swayn* perfected his Fathers design, and afforded *Ethelred* now returned out of *Normandy*, whither to avoid the storm he had betook himself, so sharp an entertainment that oppressed with grief for his bad successe, he quitted this, and made another world his second place of refuge, leaving his Son *Edmond* Inheritor of little else, but the miseries of an unfortunate house.

Yet

Yet did *Edmond*, for his valour, and hardiess in War, furnamed *Monsie*, hew himself out with his Sword the moiety of a Kingdom. For after the effusion of much blood on both sides, and to stop the shedding, of more it was agreed between the two Competitors (*Cnut* and *Edmond*) to try their right by single combat, in proper person, and the over-commer to take all. But there proving equality in the fight, there was likewise made equality in the command between them; yet did not *Edmond* long enjoy his share, being circumvented by the practice of *Edric* Earl of *Stratton*, the Arch-Traytor of those times, whose falshood had ruined the Father, and now his ambition destroys the Son; for which *Cnut* invents a suitable reward, causing his head to be set upon the highest place of the Tower of *London*, therein performing his promise of advancing him above any Lord of the Land, which was the mark that this faithlesse wretch aimed at; and now attained, but in a far different sence from that which he had vainly proposed to himself.

*Cnut* being thus rid of a Rival, denied copartnership to the Sons of *Edmond*, as preternding the whole to appertain to the Survivor, and for fear they might prove thorns in his side, he sent them far enough out of the way, into *Swedeland*; say some, there to be murdered, but they were mercifully preserved, and conveyed to the Court of *Hungary*, where *Edmond* dyed without issue, but *Edward* had by *Agatha* Daughter to *Henry* the fourth Emperour of *Germany*, a Son named *Edgar*, and a Daughter called *Margaret*; who was the cause, as hereafter shall be shewed, that the Saxon stem which now seemed withered, did once more flourish, though inoculated with a foreign stock.

Notwithstanding this transportation of *Edmond's* Sons, yet did not *Cnut* hold himself sufficiently assured of his new acquired Kingdom, till he had married *Emma* his

dow of *Ethelred*, whereby he gained the love of the English: but the promise he made in marriage, that the Children begotten on her should succeed, was for some time frustrated by the preoccupation of *Harold*, (surnamed *Harefoot*,) the eldest son of *Cnut* by a Concubine; but his reign was brief, as likewise was that of his Brother *Hardi Canute*, the lawfull Son of *Cnut* and *Emma*, with whom expired the Danish Dominion here, which had been but of a short duration, though their incursions and molestations had continued for a longer space.

*Edward* styled the Confessor, to distinguish him from *Edward* the Elder, and *Edward* the Saint, was next King, being the Son of *Emma* also, but by her first Husband *Ethelred* the Unready, and did in some sort restore the Saxon blood: For in truth there was a nearer relation to the Crown extant, though not so near at hand for the present, to wit, *Edward*, surnamed, by reason of his Foreign education, the *Outlaw*, the Son of *Edmond Ironside*, the eldest Son by his first Wife of the above mentioned *Ethelred* the Unready, who ought by the Law of Nature and Nations to have preceded. Yet did the Confessor, wanting Issue himself, do his Nephew the *Outlaw* so much right, as to recall him with his Children out of their Banishment in *Hungary*, and designed him his Successor; but the *Outlaw*'s death before the Confessors, prevented that determination.

Nevertheless the Confessor without delay pronounced *Edgar* the *Outlaw*'s Son, and his own Grand Nephew Heir apparent, and gave him the surname of *Etheling*, which in those dayes were only peculiar to such as were in hopes and possibility of a Kingdome. And more than so, this poor *Etheling* never was: For



first he was debarred by his own Guardian *Harold* the Son of *Goodwin* Earl of *Kent*, who disdaining the title of Regent (which he was only constituted) assumed that of King; Afterwards by *William* Duke of *Normandy*, who though he pulled down *Harold*, yet did he not set up *Edgar*, laying claim himself to the Crown, by virtue of a pretended Donation from his Coten *Edward* the Confessor, which had been too weak a plea, had it not been justified by a long sword, which hath ever since given him the appellation of *William* the Conquerour.

*Robert* the eldest Son of the Conquerour should by right of primogeniture have succeeded his Father in all his Dominions, but having proved a Rebel at the French Kings instigation, he had only the Dukedom of *Normandy* assigned to him, and the Crown of *England* was bequeathed to his Brother *William* surnamed *Rufus*, who dying without any legitimate off-spring, and *Robert* being absent in the Holy-land, *Henry* the youngest Son of the Conquerour as Duke of *Normandy*, but eldest as King of *England*, seized upon it, and to ingratiate himself with the Natives, and to corroborate his Title, he Married *Maud*, Daughter of *Margaret* by *Malcolme* King of *Scots*, Sister to *Edgar* *Etheling*, Son of *Edward* the Outlaw, Son of *Edmond Ironside*, Son of *Ethelred* the Unready, Son of *Edgar* the peaceable Son of *Edmond*, Son of *Edward* Senior, Son of *Alfred*, and by which means the Royal seed of the Saxons became to be replanted in the English Soil.

For this *Henry* the first had (not to mention his Son *William* who perished by water whilst he was young) by the foresaid *Maud*, a Daughter of the same name, whom he first espoused to *Henry* the fifth, Emperour of *Germany*, afterwards to *Jeffrey Plantagenet* Earl of *Anjou*, by whom she had a Son called *Henry*, in whom did fully concur the Norman and Saxon Race.

But



But the true hereditary succession was somewhat intercepted by *Stephen* Earl of *Bologne* Son of *Adela* the Conquerours Daughter, from whom he could derive but a slender title: For had the Conquerours line Masculine failed, then ought *Théobald* Earl of *Blois*, *Stephens* Eldest Brother by the same *Adela*, to have been prelated; And therefore his surest Tenure proceeded from his Election by the Nobility, who notwithstanding their natural Allegiance, and twice repeated Oath ( and among them *Stephen* himself is reckoned to be one that had sworn Fealty ) to *Maud* and her Heirs in the Reign of her Father *Henry*, admitted this stranger, and that for no other reason, though other were alleged ( as that *Maud* was a woman, and consequently incapable of anointing; that she was married out of the Realm, without the consent thereof, which if of any moment should before their solemn engagement have been taken into consideration ) than that he being a Creature of their own erecting, was more obliged to them, and would upon all occasions be more ready to gratifie their aspiring humour.

Yet wanted not the Empreffe and her Son adherents both within and without the Kingdom, to assert their right, who raised such a cloud of trouble to *Stephen* that he could not dispel it during his whole reign, so that at length he came to a composition, and his own Son *Eustace* whom he had designed his Successour being already dead, he adopts *Henry* fitz-Empresse, and proclaims him heir apparent, with this Proviso; That he himself should enjoy the Crown as long as he lived; which was not a full year after this peaceable agreement.

*Henry* the second of that name is now possessed of the Throne, ( in proceffe of time adding the Lord-

ship of *Ireland* to it) and that upon a treble account.

First by vertue of the late Treaty with King *Stephen*, Secondly by title of conquest, as being great Grand-Child to *William* the Norman; but Thirdly, and chiefly, by the equiry of his Mothers claim, who was the true descendent of the long-rejected but now restored Saxon linage.

He took to wife *Eleanor*, the repudiate of *Lewis* the seventh King of *France*, by whom he had large Dominions in that Kingdom: but notwithstanding it augmented his estate, yet was it the occasion of much trouble and vexation to him; For the French King jealous of his growing fortunes, and his own Queen of his fidelity to his marriage-bed, incited his Sons, *Henry*, *Richard*, *Jeffrey*, and *John*, to frequent rebellions, to whom nevertheless upon their submissions he was entirely reconciled.

*Henry* Sans issue departed this life before his Father. *Richard* succeeded in the Throne but dyed childlesse also; *Jeffrey*, though extinct himself before it came to his turn, had yet left a Son in-being, *Arthur* Duke of *Britany*, who ought to have been considered of; but him *John* prevented more so, by power & favour of the Nobles, than by any colour of Justice, nad whilst the young Prince endeavours the recovery of his right, he is taken prisoner as he besieged the Castle of *Mirabell* in *France*, conveyed to the Tower of *Roan*, and there killed, if not by the hands, yet at least by the command of his inhumane Uncle.

However the course taken to be thus rid of a Competitor was utterly unlawfull, yet being gon, *John* becomes the lawful proprietor of the Crown, but pays dear for the manner of this his amisse procured purchase. For the *Pope* excommunicates him, his Subjects forsake him, the French King invades him,

and bereavs him not only of his large Territories in France, but also of the greatest part of his Kingdom of England, and he dyes miserably, not without suspicion of Poyson; a just judgment upon him for his enormous Acts, especially the murder of his innocent Nephew.

Now though God shewed himself a severe inquisitor for blood, yet did he seem appeased with the punishment of the person that was guilty of it: For he so disposed the hearts of the English Nation, that they generally withdrew themselves from the French party, and notwithstanding the iniquity of the Father, most willingly embrace the Son, then a minor, as naturally inclined, says my Author, to love and obey their Princes.

Such this Prince *Henry* the third found his Subjects at his first admission, whilst he was governed by a wife and faithfull Council, but afterwards suffering himself to be ruled by strangers, that more intended their own than the publick good, he so alienated the English affections, as that they are as ready now to revolt from him, as they were earnest at first to promote his interest. To the former he adds new grievances, to wit, reiterated breach of Charters granted by his Predecessors, and himself, whence such discontentes are engendred, that at length there is begotten between the King and his people an actual (commonly known by the name of the Barons) war. Hereof *Simon de Montfort* Earl of *Leicester*, on the Barons side was head, who in a set Battail takes King *Henry* and his Son *Edward* prisoners, but *Edward* escapes, collects an Army, defeats and kills *Leicester*, and redeems his Father, the beginning of whose reign was overcast with a French mist, the middle was very tempestuous by reason of the Barons commotions, but the Catastrophe or last

part was serene, and concluded in a perfect Calm.

*Edward* the first of that name since the Norman conquest, having proved the deliverer of his Father from captivity, makes an expedition into the *Holy-land* to perform the like office to the Christians there, that were grievously afflicted under the Turkish servitude: but the news of his Fathers death quickly recalls him from further prosecution of that honourable enterprise; wherein he had no lesse honourably demeaned himself.

And as he had encreased his own and Countries reputation abroad, so doth he likewise enlarge their power and jurisdiction at home, by subduing most of *Scotland*, and totally reducing of *wales*, of which last, because it was then first annexed to this Crown, it will not be impertinent to afford the Reader a brief and summary relation.

*wales* (the small remnant of this Island that was left to the Britains the ancient possessors of the whole) had hitherto, though not without much difficulty and struggling, continued under their own proper Princes: But the fatal period of their liberty, which they had so long, so stoutly maintained, against so potent a Kingdom, as this, is now arrived. *Llewellyn* the then Prince of that Country, being summoned to our Kings Coronation, refused to appear, saying, He too well remembers the end of his Father *Gryffin*, who came in safety to *London*, but never returned thence.

This neglect, *Edward* makes the ground of a quarrel, enters into hostility against *Llewellyn*, forces him to a submission, whereof he soon repents, flies out again, is overcome and slain in fight, his head cut off, and that *Merlins* Prophecy might be fulfilled or eluded, which, as he interpreted, had promised him the Diadem of *Brute*, it is Crowned with Ivy, and set upon the Tower of *London*.  
After



After the death of *Llewellyn* and his brother *David*, (whose head was shortly sent to accompany the others in the same place) *Edward* contrives the perpetual union of these two, too long divided, Nations. And though he found the Welsh Nobles very cautious how they brought their necks under a Foreign yoke, yet doth he accomplish his ends by this neat and Artificial devise.

He conveys secretly into the Castle of *Carnarvon*, his Queen great with Child, whom when he understood to be delivered of a boy, he Assembles the Welsh Nobles, and proposeth to them, whether they would accept of a Prince of his Nomination, that was born in their own Country, could speak nere a word of English, and against whom for Life or Conversation no objection could be made: Whereunto when they had assented, he produces his own little Son *Edward*, to whom the aforesaid qualifications did exactly agree; Hence the custom took its original of investing our Kings eldest Sons in the Principality of *Wales*: but because there may here seem to have been a mixture of force and fraud, we shall endeavour, when order brings us to it, to find out a more unexceptionable Title, whereby our Kings lay claim to that Dominion.

*Edward* the second ( called *Edward* of *Carnarvon* for the cause but even now rehearsed ) much degenerated from his Fathers Noblenesse, and lost not only *Scotland*, which his Father had well-nigh gained, but ever *England* it self, being deposed by his own Wife *Isabel*, having only this comfort left him, that his Son *Edward* was to succeed in the Throne.

*Edward* the third of that name, Son of the late deposed and shortly after murdered King, was, when he came to years of Discretion, Gods Instrument, to revenge



venge his Fathers death, even upon his own Mother the Queen and her Minion *Mortimer*, who was the Author and Procurer of the same.

But the chiefest passage of this Princes Reign, and that of nearest Alliance to our Subject in hand, which is to declare the Titles our Kings have to the Kingdoms they possesse or challenge, was his claiming and almost obtaining the Crown of *France*. The occasion and State of the difference was briefly thus.

*Phillip de Valois* the then King of *France*, had with somewhat too much rigour demanded, and with too much Imperiousness received the Homage of our *Edward* for some pieces which he held in that Kingdom. But *Edwards* high Stomach could not digest the indignity, as he conceived of this humiliation, considering but somewhat of the latest, that he had a better right not to fragments only, but to the whole, than the person to whom he had so lowly abased himself: For *Edward* was the Son of *Isabell*, Daughter of *Philip le bell* or the fair, formerly King of *France*, whereas *Philip*, the present enjoyer, was Son to *Charls* of *Valois* but younger Brother to the foresaid *le bell*, only there is one frivolous impediment in *Edwards* way, to wit, the French Law *Salique*, which debars Females & their Descendents from the Crown: but this entail *Edward* is resolved to cut off with a good Sword; And to this purpose he enters *France* with a strong Army, and gave the French two such famous overthrows at *Cressy* and *Poitiers*, that they put that State into a dangerous Consumption, which without all doubt would have turned to an Heftick Feavour, had the War been prosecuted with the same heat wherewithall it was begun.

A great affay to these prosperous proceedings, was the untimely death of *Edwards* eldest Son (*Edward*) Prince of *Wales*, but better known by the name of the black

Black Prince , to whose prowesse the former Atchievements in *France* were chiefly owing, who having made an inroad into *Spain* to reinthroned their K. *Peter*, brought thence Victory and a mortal Disease, which quickly made an end of him, leaving behind him a young Son, *Richard of Bourdeaux*, to whom *Edward* the Grand-Father, yet living, confirmed the succession by Parliament, lest his aspiring Son *John* Duke of *Lancaster*, *Richards* Uncle, should, as one observes, have supplanted him, as King *John* did his Nephew *Arthur* in the like case.

But what *John* of *Gaunt* Duke of *Lancaster* failed in, his Son *Henry* of *Bullingbrook* Duke of *Hereford* effected: By deposing his Cousen German *Richard* the second, who is rather noted to be an unfortunate than vicious, a seduced than of himself Tyrannical Prince.

It will be no deviation from the matter, but rather requisite in regard of the light it yields to the clearer and more distinct knowledge of the following confusions, to speak somewhat more particularly of the manner of this *Henries* compassing the Crown, the claim he laid to it, and the course he took to settle the succession in his own house, this being the Fountain from which flowed the most bloody and most tedious Civil Wars that ever *England* endured, this being the great ball of contention between the White Rose and the Red, between the Yorkish and Lancastrian Family.

*Henry* the fourth of that name among the English Kings, was, as hath been noted before, the Son of *John* of *Gaunt* Duke of *Lancaster*, fourth Son of King *Edward* the third; His Father was suspected, but he is detected, of higher thoughts than it became a Subject (he being then but Duke of *Hereford*) to entertain.

For justification of himself, *Hereford* appeals to his Sword, and offers combat to *Thomas Mowbray* Duke of *Norfolk* his Accuser, who, couragiously accepts

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thereof : But as they were about to joyn issue , King *Richard* interposes and banished them both, out of the Realm , *Norfolk* for ever , *Hereford* for ten years ; four of which the King struck off as of special favour, when he came to take his solemne leave of him. But *Hereford* himself doth much more abbreviate the time, and doth long anticipates even the last indulged date of his return : For he re-lands the very same day twelve-month he departed , and found many Abettors of his quarrel ( which at first he only pretends to be the recovery of his Dukedom ) especially the Earl of *Northumberland*, whom King *Richard* at his late going into *Ireland*, where now he is, because the Earl demurred to accompany him in the Voyage , had caused to be proclaimed Traytor , and so made him that , which otherwise perhaps he would not have been. But *Henries* Power more and more increasing , and *Richards* dayly decreasing , till at length it languished into nothing, *Henry* discovers, that it was somewhat more than a bare Dukedom that he aimed at : A Parliament is called, in which King *Richard* as is pretended, not only voluntarily surrenders, but is also violently degraded , and *Henry*, both by his and the peoples appointment, installed in his Room , who upon the day of his Coronation , caused it to be proclaimed, that he claimed the Crown of *England*, First, by right of Conquest; Secondly, because King *Richard* had resigned his Estate , and designed him his Successor ; Lastly, because he was of the Blood Royal , and next Heir Male to King *Richard*. Heir Male, rather *Hæc res Malus*, sayes *Edmond Mortim'r* Earl of *March* to some of his Familiars , as knowing the lawful right to be inherent in himself, though for the present it must give place to a stronger possessor. For this *Edmond* was the Son of *Roger*, the Son of *Edmond*  
Earl

Earl of *March*, by *Philip* Daughter of *Lionel* Duke of *Clarence*, who was elder Brother to *John* Duke of *Lancaster*, King *Henries* Father. Hereof *Henry* is very apprehensive, and having dispatched *Richard* to Heaven before his time, wished *Mortimer* there also, and in order to his hastening thither, refused to procure his liberty and enlargement, but suffered him to continue in a loathsome Dungeon, though he had been taken Prisoner in defence of his Country against *Owen ap Glendower*, the famous Revolter of *Wales*, who therefore the more hardly used him, that thereby his Kinsman King *Henry* might be moved to redeem him, but therefore King *Henry* would not redeem him, because he well hoped by this hard usage to be rid of him, who was like to prove the greatest prejudice to his crazy and counterfeit Title. For it was obvious to all, however for fear dissembled by most, that the issue of *Lionel* Elder Son of King *Edward* the third, ought to have preceded *John* of *Gaunts* the younger Son of the foresaid *Edward*; And hence it was, that *Henry* doth not solely rely upon his Fathers right, which he knew to be infirm, as long as any of *Lionels* off-spring remained, but joyns to it that of his Mother *Blanch*, Daughter and Heir to *Henry* Duke of *Lancaster*, Son of *Edmond*, nick-named *Crook-back*, eldest Son, as was alleged, of King *Henry* the third, but by reason of his deformity put by the succession, which was for that cause conferred upon King *Edward* the first, though but the younger Brother; But the truth is, in this pedigree there is an Error in the very Foundation, for though our *Henry* were so descended as is specified, from *Edmond*, yet the said *Edmond* was neither eldest Son to *Henry* the third, nor yet a deformed person, but a proper Gentleman, and a great Commander, therefore entitled *Crook-back*, or rather

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*Crouch-*



*Crouch-back*, because he had took upon him the *Crosse*, and according to the Custom of those days warred in the Holyland.

Thus appears the invalidity of *Henryes* claim, whether from the Father, as unsound, or the Mother, as suspicious, and deceitful, or from King *Richard* receding, as extorted by force in restraint, and so of no force, or of consent of the many, there being no Custom in the English Nation for popular elections, or by Conquest, which in a Subject against his Sovereign is Insurrection, and Victory high Treason, as was well observed by the Bishop of *Carlisle* in his speech in that very Parliament, where this business was agitated and transacted.

Nay further, there is a tradition, that *John* of *Gaunt* (Father of this *Henry*) was not at all the Son of King *Edward*, but that the Queen being deliver'd of a female child, knowing how unacceptable it would be to her Husband, exchanged it for a boy with a Dutch woman, who had been brought to bed about the same hour: This the Queen at her death confessed to *William* of *Wickman* Bishop of *Winchester*, who acquainted none with it but *John* of *Gaunt* himself, and that when he perceived *John* to affect the Crown, in which case the Mother had left the Bishop free: But this being but a report, and grounded on uncertainties, would have been no bar to *Henry's* title, had it been clear in all other respects.

*Henry*, as he had injuriously obtained a Kingdom, so doth he laboriously preserve the same; for the manifold conspiracies against him testifie that quiet is not a Concomitant of usurped greatnesse; and was in a manner bereaved of his Crown, before he was of his life: For he being seized upon by a deep fit of the Apoplexy, his Son *Henry* seized upon the Crown, where-  
of,



of, when the Father reviving demanded the reason, his answer was, That in his and all mens judgement there present, he was dead, and then says he, I being next Heir apparent to the same, took it as my indubitat right; Well said the King, and sighed, Son, what right I had to it, God knoweth; but saith the Prince, If you dye King, I doubt not to hold it, as you have done, against all opposers.

Which expression this incomparable King *Henry* the fifth did make good even to supererogation: for abandoning his youthfull extravagancies, whereof he is severely taxed, he embraces more solid courses, and to vent any discontented humours at home, which by standing still might corrupt, and gather putrefaction, he meditates a war with *France*, and awakens the English title to it, which had lyen dormant ever since his great Grand-Fathers days.

But whilst he is in preparation for this great affair, he either makes or discovers a plot against his life, by *Richard* Earl of *Cambridge*, who had married *Anne* Sister and Heir of *Edmond Mortimer*, Earl of *March*, before remembred, who was the true heir of the Crown, and was the true cause of Earl *Richards* execution: for it cannot be imagined that money alone would induce so noble a person to so foul an undertaking. And the event shews that there was somewhat more than Bribery in this attempt, when we shall find the Son of this late executed Earl, dispossessing his Son, who was the Author of his Fathers Tragedy.

*Henry* having thus eased himself of a great Pretender, proceeds to his intended design on *France*, where he so prosperously speeds, that he is constituted Regent, & declared Heir apparent of the doting French King, whose Daughter *Katherine* he marries, & by her hath a Son named *Henry*, of whom the King is said to have thus prophesied

phesied; I *Henry* born at *Marmouth*, shall small time reign and much get, and *Henry* born at *Windsor* shall long reign and lose all.

And so indeed it came to passe through the secret operation of all-disposing Providence, which is seldom propitious to the owners (how good in themselves soever they be) of ill-gained inheritances beyond the third succession. And hereof our present *Henry* the sixth is a great example, who was the meekest and most religious of all our Kings that had been before, and yet for no other transgression that we know of, than the original Sin of his Grand-Father, *Henry* the fourth, meddling with the forbidden fruit of a Crown his ere it was ripe for him, is he chased out of the terrestrial Paradise of all his Kingdoms, and sent to be a partaker of a Celestial one, somewhat more early than the due course of nature had designed him for it.

For that covert fire which had a long time burned in the breasts of many, to see the Lancastrian race enjoy anothers right, doth now break forth into open combustion, of which *Richard* Duke of *York* is the prime incendiary, the Son of *Richard* Earl of *Cambridge*, who was beheaded in King *Henry* the fifths reign, for supposed Treason, the Son of *Edmond* Duke of *York*, the fifth Son of King *Edward* the third.

But Duke *Richard* waves all pretensions by the Fathers side, as not being ignorant, that *John* of *Gaunt* (from whom our present *Henry* is directly descended) was elder brother to his Grandfire *Edmond*, and therefore in Parliament only produceth his title by the Mother, as being the Son and Heir of *Anne*, Sister and Heir of *Edmond*, Son and Heir of *Roger Mortymer* Earl of *March*, Son and Heir of *Philippa*, the sole Daughter and Heir of *Lionel* Duke of *Clarence*, the third Son of *Edward*

*Edward* the third, and elder Brother of *John of Gaunt*, Duke of *Lancaster*, Father of the Usurper *Henry* the fourth, Grand-Father of *Henry* the fifth, who was Father to him, who now ( says *Richard* ) untruly stileth himself King *Henry* the sixth.

Besides his holding forth his claim to the Crown in this demonstrative, and undeniable manner ( which yet the judicious could only penetrate ) the Duke addeth many Rhetorical aggravations, which were more suitable, and intelligible to vulgar ears; As that the King was simple, and of weak capacity; that he was Governed by the Queen a stranger, and Woman of an unsufferable ambition; that the Privy Counsellors were naught and corrupt, through whole faithlesse and inabilities, *France* was lost, and *England* disquieted, and that greater judgements were to be expected, if the true Heir were any longer debarred from his lawful right.

The Duke by these plausible arguments had so engaged the multitude unto him, that he is able to dispute his Title in the Field with the King, whom he takes Prisoner, and calling in his name a Parliament, it is there concluded, that King *Henry* during his life, should retain the name and Honour of a King; that the Duke of *York* should be Proclaimed Heir apparent to the Crown, and Protector of the Kings Person and Dominions; that if at any time King *Henries* Friends, Allies, or Favorites, in his behalf should attempt the disannulling of this Act, that then the Duke should have present possession of the Crown.

But this was more than what his destiny had allotted for him, for he was shortly after slain at the Battle of *Wakefield* by Queen *Margaret*, who was of a more Masculine Spirit, than to acquiesce in the forementioned dishonorable Conditions; and because it  
was

was a Crown that the Duke of *York* chiefly affected; She caused his Head to be cut off, set upon a Pole, and Crowned with Paper: but the death and disgrace of the Father, *Edward* Earl of *March*, his Eldest Son doth speedily revenge to the utter ruine of the *Lancastrian* party.

Nor will this *Edward*, as did his Father, await anothers leasure, and prove expectant of a Crown in reversion, but immediately assumes it by the actual deposing of King *Henry*, whom he takes Prisoner, and commits to safe custody in the Tower of *London*.

But there was an accident which had well-nigh nipped the white Rose in the bud, and restored the red Rose to its pristine vigour.

*Edward* the fourth, late Earl of *March*, now King of *England*, sends his great General the Earl of *Warwick* to treat a Match between him, and the Lady *Bona* Sister to the Queen of *France*. But our youthful King in the mean time consulting only his own affections, takes to Wife, the fair Lady *Gray*, Widdow of Sir *John Gray* of *Groby*; which so incenses *Warwick*, that he Rebels against his Master, beats him not only out of the Field, but also out of the Kingdom, delivers King *Henry* from his Prison, and reseats him in his Throne; but all this is but as Lightning before Death; *Edward* returns from beyond Seas, fights with, defeats and kills the Earl of *Warwick*, routs also Queen *Margaret* newly landed, and the relicks of her *Lancastrian* Associates, takes her and her Son *Edward* Prisoners, which last is stabbed by *Richard* Duke of *Glocester*, King *Edward's* Brother; and not long it is, but the Father *Henry* is dispatched by the same hand in the Tower of *London*, whither he was remanded by King *Edward* after this fortunate and victorious success.



The cruelty of *Richard Duke of Gloucester*, whose nature was more crooked than his body, did not terminate in the blood of his Enemies, but begins to practise on his Friends and nearest Relations: For perceiving that King *Edward* by reason of his incontinency, whereunto no English Prince was ever more subject, was not long liv'd, he secretly plots the attaining of the Crown for himself; And for the more expedite compassing this ambitious design, he first incenses King *Edward* against their common Brother *George Duke of Clarence*, not only exaggerating the hainounesse of his former disobedience (which had been pardoned) but insinuating a blind Prophecy, that one whose name began with the letter *G.* should prove fatal to *Edwards* posterity.

Hereupon the Duke of *Clarence* is committed to the Tower, and thereby *Richard* drowned in a Butt of *Malmsey*, however it was given out that he dyed of a discontented passion.

But the Ominous *G.* which the King so much dreaded, was found in the sequele to appertain to *Glocester* himself, who was the Contriver of this mischief, and Butcher of *Edwards* innocent Sons, of whom, after the Kings decease, he was made Protector.

The young Prince (*Edward* the fifth) was at *Ludlow*, when his Father, *Edward* the fourth dyed, from whence his Mother was over desirous to have him forthwith conveyed to *London*.

But his Uncle the Duke of *Glocester* meets him by the way at *Stony-Stratford*, and having secured all his faithful Attendants and Kindred by the Mothers side, takes into custody the person of the young King, which was the game that this mighty hunter did mainly intend.

Yet was there one obstacle to his aspiring ends still

behind, to wit, *Richard* Duke of *York* the Kings Brother, in Sanctuary with his Mother at *Westminster*, whom to allure thence (for to do it by Violence, was accounted Religion in those days) he imployes the Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury* to perswade the Mother, and in case she proves obstinate, to interpose his Authority, to part with her Son, under colour, that he might be a companion, and great lenitive of the Melancholy disposition of his disconsolate Brother.

*Glocester* having thus compassed the Wardship of both his Nephews, makes shew as if he would proceed to the Coronation of the Elder, but whilst the Lords of the Council are debating of the time and manner of it, he arrests, and on a sudden makes shorter by the Head the Lord Chamberlain *Hastings*, whom though he had used as a forward Coadjuter in depressing of the Queens Relations, yet knew him to be altogether averse from yielding any Countenance to the disinheriting of his Masters King *Edwards* Children.

*Hastings* thus removed, the Duke of *Buckingham* (who had received several disgusts from his Brother-in-law *Edward* the fourth) is pitched upon as the fittest agent to carry on this Devilish attempt; who having prepared the Mayor and Citizens of *London*, comes in their name; pretending Bastardy, and insufficiency of *Edwards* race, to make a tender of the Crown to Protector *Richard*, and in case of refusal, with threats to elect some other worthy and deserving Person. *Richard* in seeming amazement makes strange at first of this by himself devised proposal; but after some importunity, grants his request, and willing consent, not without a disguised regret of his Nephews condition, whose murder in the Tower soon immediately ensue.

*Bucking-*

*Buckingham* (supposed not privy to the making away of the harmlesse Princes) upon this and other distastes, retires from Court to his Castle of *Brecknock*, where, with his prisoner *Morton* Bishop of *Ely*, he contrives the Match between *Henry* Earl of *Richmond*, and *Elizabeth* Daughter of *Edward* the fourth, which proves *Richards* downfall, and the union of the *Yorkish* and *Lancastrian* line.

*Henry* Earl of *Richmond*, was the Son of *Margaret*, Daughter of *John* Duke of *Somerset*, Son of *John* of *Gaunt* Duke of *Lancaster*, by *Katherine Swineford*; relict of *Sir Otes Swineford*; and though this *John*, and other Children, were born before espousals, yet was the issue made legitimate by Act of Parliament, and confirmed by a Bull from *Rome*.

Of this *Henry* there goes a tradition for current, that in the heat of the Civil Wars between the House of *York* and *Lancaster*, *Henry* the sixth having espied him in the presence, laid his hand upon his head, and in a Prophetick manner said, Behold this youth, who is to enjoy that for which we now contend.

Which his Mother observing, and treasuring up in her heart, sent him into *Britany* in *France*, as into a safe Harbour, to be there educated and preserved till the fury of the tempest were over, which then did so terribly rage throughout the Land.

*Richard* the third earnestly Solicites the Duke of *Britany* to deliver up *Richmonds* person to him, which was well-nigh effected, by the treachery of *Peter Landows*, the Dukes especial Favourite; But *Richmond* having timely notice of this Clandestine negotiation, flies to the French Kings Court, (for at that time the Dukedom of *Britany* was a distinct Principality) from whence having sworn to consummate the projected marriage with the Lady *Elizabeth*, he hastens to re-

deem poor *England* from the jaws of an usurping Tyrant.

*Richmond* Lands at *Milford Haven* in *Pembrokeshire*, where he was heartily welcomed, and readily assisted by the Welsh, from whose Princes he was descended, as being the Son of *Edmond* of *Haddam*, the Son of *Owen Ap Teudor*, who could in a direct line derive his pedigree from the Noble Race of *Cadwallader*, last King of the Britains on this side *Severne*, as hath been before touched; though a modern Writer, more for the jest sake, than out of reality, says he was a Gentleman of no extraordinary lineage, but lineaments, which he makes to be the motive that induced *Katherine* of *France*, Dowager of *England*, after the death of *Henry* the fifth, to take him for her second Husband.

*Richmond* having much increased his Army among his Country-men, marches forward as far as *Bosworth* in *Leicestershire*, where King *Richard* meets him, and there the great controversy is finally decided in *Bar-rail*; *Richard* is slain, and *Richmond* by a kind of military election saluted, and in a manner Crowned King in the Field.

*Henry* the seventh (for so must we now call him, that was but lately Earl of *Richmond*;) sensible that the tumultuary approbation of Souldiers did of it self give him neither just or durable possession, knowing likewise the weakness of the *Lancastrian* plea in opposition to that of *Tork*, marries, according to his solemn preingagement, *Elizabeth* eldest Daughter of *Edward* the fourth, which brought security to his estate, and happiness to the Kingdom, the two *Roses*, whose divisions had put the English to much expence of blood, being thereby concorporated, and forever after linked in a most firm and indissoluble knot.



But as in a body, that hath been troubled with a Cronique Disease, though recovered, yet are there still some peccant humours to be purged out: so, notwithstanding this Union and Reconciliation, there remains dregs of discontents, whereof the Queen Mother was the supposed Parent, and *Margaret* Duchesse of *Burgundy* the known Nurse; the first, because she thought her Daughter not sufficiently respected (for King *Henry* is not accused to have been over uxorious or indulgent to his wife) the other, being Sister of *Edward* the fourth, bore an endlesse hatred to any of the *Lancastrian* Race.

The first Spirit they raised to disturb King *Henry* quiet, was one *Lambert Symnell*, a stripling, but so instructed by *Simon* a Priest, who had higher directors, that he could well personate the young Earl of *Warwick* (Son of *George* Duke of *Clarence*) whom the credulous Irish greedily entertain and acknowledge for their King: And when *Henry* to detect the forgery, had publicly shewn in *London* the very Earl of *Warwick* whom he kept his Prisoner, they retort the fiction upon himself, and give out he had suborned a counterfeit on purpose to delude the simple multitude.

But this Pageantry quickly vanished, the Conspirators are dispersed, and *Lambert* taken, who had the honour to be first made a Turn-Spit in the Kings Kitchen, but was afterwards preferred to be one of the Kings Falconers.

This was but the Prologue as it were to a more deep contrived Com. Tragedy that was to follow, whereof the restless Duchesse of *Burgundy* was the Inven-ter, and one *Perkin Warbeck* the principal Actor. But the Name and Scene is somewhat altered: His Cue assigned him, is to play the part of *Richard* Duke of *York*.

second Son of *Edward* the fourth, who is feigned to have miraculously escaped the hands of his bloody Uncle.

*Perkin* was so good & proficient, and had learnedly, and could repeat his lesson so exactly, that not the silly Irish alone, but the French, and Scottish Kings, with many of the Nobility and Gentry of *England*, were, or would be deceived.

Nay, Sir *William Stanley* himself, Lord Chamberlain, the Kings special favorite, is so far trepanned, as to utter this improvident Speech (which was construed high Treason) that if he certainly knew that the young man was the undoubted Son and Heir of King *Edward* the fourth, he would never fight, or bear Arms against him; for which he became headloffe, though he had been the chief help and setter of the Crown upon King *Henry*s head.

*Perkin* at length is taken, and committed to the Tower, where soliciting the Earl of *Warwick* to make an escape, he hastens both his own merited, and that poor Earls undeserved execution.

*Henry* having thus composed his affairs at home, seeks honourable matches for his children abroad, and marries his eldest Daughter *Margaret* to the Scottish King providently foreseeing, that in case his issue Male failed, this conjunction might be a means to associate the separated Kingdoms, (as his own had the *Roses*) and so remedy the inconveniences of two distinct estates in one single Island.

*Arthur* his eldest Son, Prince of *Wales*, was espoused to *Katherine* Infanta of *Spain*, but he dying before consummation, we mean as to conjugal duty, his brother *Henry* by dispensation from the Pope, takes her to wife, who on the wedding day was attired

all

all in white; in token that she was a pure and spot-  
lesse Virgin.

It is conceived that the young Prince (who hence-  
forward is to be styled *Henry* the eighth) had never a-  
ny great fancy to the Lady, as somewhat his Superiour  
in years, but did rather comply with his Fathers will,  
than his own Inclinations: However for a long time  
he lived with her in an outward loving and seeming  
respectful manner.

But at length satiated with her company, whom  
from the beginning he had not truly affected, he medi-  
tates a divorce, and hopes by money and Cardinal  
*Wolseys* interest in the Court of *Rome*, with speed to  
effect the same. *Wolsey*, (who by his obsequiousness to  
the Kings pleasure in all things, had from a mean con-  
dition mounted to the highest degree of favour and  
power that a Subject is capable of) is reported to be  
the first that injected the scruple into the Kings head,  
touching the unlawfullness of his marriage with  
his Brothers Wife, which once in, could not in haste  
be put out again. But in the prosecution the King  
and *Wolsey* had different ends, *Wolsey* to revenge him-  
self of *Charles* the fifth, Emperour of *Germany*, and  
Nephew to *Katharine*, who had been a back-Friend to  
*Wolsey* in his attempted advancement to the Popedom,  
and by proposing a match to the King out of *France*,  
he thought so ingratiating with that Crown, which  
might be more suspicious in promoting his over-  
riding designs. But the King had another, though not so  
deep a reach, which more concerned his own pri-  
vate satisfaction than policy or reason of State.

For he desired to be unyoked from his first Queen,  
that he might make a new one of one of her maids of  
honour, *Anne* of *Bolton*, with whom he was despe-  
rately in love, which the Cardinal finding out,  
proves

proves cold in the businesse, delays to exercise his legantine power, instigates the Pope to recall the cause to himself, and proceeds slowly therein; all which is performed accordingly, but it concludes with the ruine of *Woolsey's* and the Popes Authority. For impatient of these procrastinations, *Henry* discards the one, and renounces the other, rejects *Katherine*, marries *Anne*, grows weary of her, impeaches her of incest with her own Brother, cuts off her head, in whose room the very next day succeeds *Jane Seymour*, who dies in Child-birth; And so he continues shifting and putting away, or to death, his Wives, as well as other Subjects, till his own appointed time came, a little before which it is recorded that in great Agony he should say unto Arch-Bishop *Cranmer*, Is there any mercy for him, who never spared man in his wrath, nor woman in his lust?

In his life he little regarded, but rather endeavoured to defeat by Parliament, the titles of his Daughters, *Mary* by *Katherine of Spain*, and *Elizabeth* by *Anne of Bolen*, with both whose Mothers he had been grievously displeased, and seemed more inclinable to the offspring of his youngest sister *Mary*, (Dowager of France) by *Charles Brandon Duke of Suffolk*, but at his death, by his last Will and Testament, he constituted his Son *Edward* by *Jane Seymour*, his next immediate heir, and then in case they dyed childlesse, the Lady *Mary* and the Lady *Elizabeth* to succeed in their order.

*Henry* the eighth being dead, *Edward* the 6th. of that name, his Son, is at nine years of age proclaimed King, and *Edward Duke of Sommerfet* by the Mothers side ordained his Protector, whose candid nature exposed him to the cunning wiles of *Dudley Duke of Northumberland*, which at last brought *Sommerfet*, his Brother *Thomas Marquesse of Hertford Admiral of England*, and



and even the King himself to their untimely ends.

The Fox (*Northumberland*) observing the differences between the Protector and the Admiral, begun by the womanish emulation of their Wives, doth underhand so foment it, that the Admiral is brought to the block, and the Protector not long after follows, which renders the Pupill King, more obnoxious to *Northumberland's* ambitious practices, now that his two faithfull Uncles, who should have supported him, are removed out of the way.

*Northumberland* taking advantage of the Kings weaknesse of mind and body, (whereunto he is shrewdly suspected to have contributed) advises him to make a Will, wherein the King declaring that he was past his minority, (though not above sixteen years of age) and that it appertained to him to dispose of the Kingdom as he pleased, doth disinherit his Sisters *Mary* and *Elizabeth*, as Persons of whose legitimation there was a question as likewise the issue of his eldest Aunt Sister *Margaret* married to the Scottish King, as foreigners and aliens, bequeathing the Crown to his Cousen *Jane* Grand-daughter to the Duchesse of *Suffolk*, the youngest Sister of his Father King *Henry* the eighth.

*Guilford* (Duke *Dudleys* Son) was husband to this Lady *Jane*, who upon the death of *Edward* was proclaimed Queen, but *Mary* the eldest Daughter of King *Henry*, by the assistance of the *Norfolk* and *Suffolk* Gentry, recovered that which both by birth and her Fathers appointment, was her undoubted though for a small time detained right.

Notwithstanding *Mary* by the Protestants aid attained the Crown, yet her Education in the contrary profession, and the memory that for her Mothers sake it suffered its first detriment, obliged her to recall the Catholick Religion that had been banished in her Pre-

decessors days, keeping, as one wittily observes, the Kingdom by *Pater noster*, which she had gained by *Our Father which art in Heaven*.

Her zeal and over-ardent desire to extinguish that which she thought Heresy, kindled many fires in this land, for which she bears ill among the vulgar to this day, and bears the brand of tyranny, though of her self she was of a mild and merciful disposition.

Among other passages, her severity to her Sister *Elizabeth* is much taxed, of whose sincere devotion, though outwardly conformable to the Romish Church, the Queen much doubted, and fearing a relapse of things after her own death, could have been content that her Sister *Elizabeth*, though the youngest, had had the Precedency therein; But *Philip* King of *Spain*, Queen *Maryes* husband, had other thoughts of and intentions towards *Elizabeth*, whom he preserved from her Sisters violence, and designed for his second, we would say, third wife, for he was a Widdower, when he married *Mary*, by whom he now begins to despair of issue, and by reason of her Dropsy, perceives she was in no wise immortal here.

Queen *Elizabeth* at her first entrance makes shew as if she would tread in her Sister *Maryes* steps, whereby she so charmed the Catholick Clergy and Nobility, that they created her no disturbance: And she did further so temporize with King *Philip*, that he was a great favourer of her admission, hoping shortly to be a Copartner with her both in Bed and Kingdom.

But the tancy which *Philip*, though no Babe, had builded in his brain, quickly appears to be but an aerial Castle; for *Elizabeth* soon undeceives him, and other Romanists, who had promised themselves other matters, by declining Marriage, disowing the Popes Jurisdiction, and reducing Ecclesiastical Affairs to the same state and condition her Father and Brother had left them in.

The

The averfeneffe of this Queen to Matrimonial Bondage, as ſhe accounted it, gave occaſion to that great and by her alwayes diſliked diſpute about the Succeſſion: That it belonged of right to *Mary* Queen of *Scots*, Daughter of *James*, the fifth Son of *Margaret* eldeſt Daughter to King *Henry* the ſeventh, none could reaſonably deny; but *Mary*, ſay the State Politicians of thoſe times, will prove another *Mary*, and our Religion will be depreſſed, if ſhe be advanced to the Engliſh Throne: Her own Subjects have expelled her upon that account; and ſhall we accept of her for our Princeſſe, whom we have ſo much diſobliged by detaining ſo long a Priſoner?

For this unfortunate Queen, having been educated in *France*, did after the deceaſe of her firſt Husband, the *Dolphin*, return into *Scotland*, of whoſe faſhions, by reaſon of her forein breeding, being ſomewhat ignorant, ſhe could not conſequently but be guilty of ſome miſcarriages, which her Enemies ſo aggravate, that they ſtir up the people to a ſedition, ſeize upon her Perſon, force her to reſign to her Son *James* ( by *Henry* Lord *Darby*, Son of the Duke of *Lenox* ) not full eighteen Months old, of whom Earl *Murray* ( her Baſtard Brother ) is made Regent, who was the beginning and continuer of all her troubles.

*Mary*, late, and by right ſtill, Queen of *Scots*, after this extorted and therefore invalid reſignation, fearing further attempts againſt her life, eſcapes out of the loathſom Gaol where ſhe was ſecured, and betakes her ſelf into *England* for ſuccour, ſending news to her Cozen Queen *Elizabeth*, imploring not only preſent protection, but alſo ſuch convenient aides, as might reſtore her to her Kingdom, of which ſhe had been forceably deprived by her Murinous and Rebellious Subjects,

*Elizabeth* at first gives good words, and sends her large attendance; which were yet but in the quality of an honourable Guard, but afterwards more and more abridges her liberty; at which hard and unworthy usage of a suppliant and Heir apparent of the Crown, some English Lords and Gentlemen conceiving a just disdain, project and propose to her means of deliverance, wherunto she (as all other living creatures are) most greedy of natural freedom, doth readily assent; but these are prevented; and her Actions interpreted as yet tending to the destruction of Queen *Elizabeth*, for which she is tryed by certain delegated Commissioners (who much resembled a late thing called an High Court of Justice) is by them found guilty, and shortly after beheaded at *Fotheringham* Castle in *Northamptonshire*; but the true cause why she suffered, was expressed to her self by the Earl of *Kent*, (one of her Judges,) a little before her reputed Martyrdom; *Madam*, says he, if you live our Religion is in danger, of which words she desired the Auditors to take special notice, that confessedly it was not Treason, but Religion for which she was to dye.

*James* the 6th. King of *Scotland*, Son of the late executed *Mary*, now come to years of discretion, expostulates with Queen *Elizabeth* about his Mothers death, but the Queen puts it off upon the precipitation of her Secretary *Davison*, intimating, that if he stirred in the least manner to revenge, it would irrecoverably hazard his hopes of the Succession, of which yet she gives him but a very faint assurance. But in her declining age, some about her, who had been shie before to intermeddle with so ticklish and unpleasing a point, grow more peremptory, and presse her to a positive declaration, to whom her answer was, It is the King of *Scots* due, and let him have it.



Conform whereunto *James* King of *Scotland*, immediately after her death is proclaimed King of *England*, both which he converts into the name of Great *Britany*; and now is *Cadwalladers* Prophecy, before remembered, exactly compleated, that his Race should recover the sole Dominion of this Island; for King *James*, besides his direct descent from King *Henry* the seventh, brought another, but higher title, if the former had not been sufficient, from *Banco* a Nobleman of *Scotland*, whose Son *Fleance* fled from the tyranny of *Macbeth* the Usurper, into *wales*, and there married the Prince his Daughter, by whom he had *walter* the first of the renowned Family of the *Stewards*: but for the particulars of that conjunction, we referre you to the British and and Scottish Historians.

King *James* arose in this our Horizon with much clearnesse, notwithstanding *Rawleighs* mist, and the smook of the Gun-powder-plot, which were soon dispell'd: but his setting was obscured by a little Cloud which shortly did overspread the whole Land.

He had married his eldest Daughter *Elizabeth* to *Frederick* Prince Palatine of the *Rhene*, who unadvisedly gaping after the Kingdom of *Bohemia*, lost not only it, but his own patrimonial possession.

King *James* who had more of *Solomon* than *David* in him, sollicites restitution, rather by Treaty than Arms, and as the most conducing means to his peaceable ends, entertains an overture of a match betwixt his Son *Charles* Prince of *wales* and the Infanta of *Spain*, to whose King, the Palatinate was by the Emperour consigned over.

But the English Parliament takes exception at this intended Spanish affinity, and as if Religion were at the Stake, declaims against it; Notwithstanding the King sends his Son into *Spain*, who returns thence

with

without a wife. yet in his passage thither, had an accidental sight of her in *France*, who was by Heaven his designed Spouse.

As soon as *James* was dead, *Charles* his Son is proclaimed King, who immediately marries *Henrietta Maria* youngest Daughter to *Henry* the great King of *France*, of whom, as was just now hinted, he had a transient view in his voyage to *Spain*, which when this Princess understood, she is reported to have said, That he needed not to have gone so far for a wife.

But now the seed of discontent, which had been sowed in his Fathers time, did begin to bud forth; *Scotland* yields the first-fruits, which also too much thrives in the English Plantation. The Scottish Nobility enter into Combination against Episcopacy, and the Service-book, which they allege to be obtruded upon them.

For redresse of these imaginary grievances, the Scots with swords in their hand approach his Majesty to present a Petition, as is given out: A Parliament in *England* is called to compose differences, which rather increases them, for which it is soon dissolved: The Scots Invasion continues, but at length a Pacification is made; another Parliament is convened, which working so far upon the Kings necessities, extorts from him an inseparable jewel of his Prerogative, to wit, a privilege, nor before asked or granted, nor to be discharged without their own consent.

In strength of this concession they proceed to other unseasonable demands, which together with the tumults of the City, occasioned the King to retire Northward, and being denyed entrance into *Hull*, (for which *Sir Iohn Hotham* did afterwards receive his reward from those that implored him) he repairs to

*Notting-*

*Nottingham*, where, understanding that an Army was tormented under the Earl of *Essex* at *London*, and then on their March to bring him back, as it was given out, to his Parliament, he sets up his Standard Royal; but the appearance not answering expectation, he directs his course towards *Shrewsbury*, where by the confluence of the loyal Welsh, his small forces are so increased, that he is able to confront the Earl of *Essex*, then at *Worcester*, who retreats into *Warwickshire*, and is overtaken at *Edge-hill* by his Majesty, where the first signal battail is fought, in which both sides were great losers, and yet both sides assume the victory to themselves.

The war continues doubtful for three years, but the Battail at *Naseby* in *Northamptonshire* proves fatal to the Kings affairs; for after that succeeds little else, but the ruine of his party in all places, and surrender of most of his Garrisons, till he was necessitated in disguise to leave *Oxford*, his prime, and well-nigh alone remaining hold, then in a manner beleaguered, and betake himself for Protection to the Scottish Army.

The Scots, though they had received all possible satisfaction as to their own concerns, yet could not refrain from intermeddling in the English distempers, and were at that time besieging *Newark* upon *Trent*.

They at first received the King with all seeming promises of security as to his Person, but having carried him with them to *Newcastle*, do there barter him with the English for 200000*l.* a price, which, as the French Embassador observed, did far exceed that which *Judas* received for betraying of our Saviour.

From *Newcastle* his bought and sold Majesty is conveyed, by Commissioners deputed for that purpose from the Parliament of *England*, to his house at *Hildenby* in

Nor-

*Northamptonshire* ( perhaps that he might be within prospect of that uncomfortable place *Naseby*, where was given him his irreparable overthrow ) there to reside during the pleasure of the two Houses: But not long it was ere *Cromwel* ( whose pulse at that time says a then pen-man, began to beat a Lordly pace ) by his instrument *Ioyce* surprizes him in his bed, and when *Ioyce* told *Cromwel* that he had the King in his Custody, then, quoth *Cromwel*, I have the Parliament in my pocket.

*Cromwells* end in seizing on the Kings person, was not only for countenance of his Independent proceedings against the opposite Presbyterian faction; but after their depression the better to be enabled to destroy the King himself for his own advancement.

For having once entrapped this Royal Lyon, he doth dayly more and more entangle him within his toyles, and never thinks him fast enough, till he had got him in his pit-fall of the *Isle of Wight*: whether he had allured the good King, who thought others as free from guile, as he knew himself to be, by setting before him the danger he was in, while he remained at *Hampton Court*, how he lay open and exposed to the wicked machinations of the Agitators of the Army, who intended to Act that, which he poor Soul did even tremble to utter.

But what the King hopes to find a temporary Sanctuary, proves to him a constant prison, from whence he is not to be delivered but in order to his Tryal and Execution, the Barbarity of which fact, as we cannot, so neither need



we aggravate, nor recite particular Circumstances of what either then or hath since happened, it being the Subject of all pens and tongues, or if any be so great a stranger in our *Israel*, he may receive information from each Post and Pamphlet; Our task being finished, which was in the way of an *Historical Essay* to prove Gods special Providence over the *English Monarchy*, more particularly over that Family which now doth, and long may it enjoy the same.

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FINIS.

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